

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4847

To reauthorize the United States Fire Administration, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 19, 2007

Mr. MITCHELL (for himself and Mr. GINGREY) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Science and Technology

A BILL

To reauthorize the United States Fire Administration, and
for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “United States Fire
5 Administration Reauthorization Act of 2007”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) The loss of life due to fire has dropped sig-
9 nificantly over the last 25 years in the United
10 States. However, the United States still has one of
11 the highest fire death rates in the industrialized

1 world. In 2005 the National Fire Protection Asso-
2 ciation reported 3,675 civilian fire deaths, 17,925 ci-
3 vilian fire injuries, and \$10,672,000,000 in direct
4 losses due to fire.

5 (2) Every year, over 100 firefighters die in the
6 line of duty. The United States Fire Administration
7 should continue its leadership to help local fire agen-
8 cies dramatically reduce these fatalities.

9 (3) Members of the fire service community
10 should continue to work together to further the pro-
11 motion of voluntary consensus standards that in-
12 crease firefighter safety.

13 (4) The United States Fire Administration pro-
14 vides crucial support to the Nation's 30,300 fire de-
15 partments through training, emergency incident data
16 collection, fire awareness and education, and support
17 of research and development activities for fire pre-
18 vention, control, and suppression technologies.

19 (5) The collection of data on fire and other
20 emergency incidents is a vital tool both for policy
21 makers and emergency responders to identify and
22 develop responses to emerging hazards. Improving
23 the United States Fire Administration's data collec-
24 tion capabilities is essential for accurately tracking

1 and responding to the magnitude and nature of the
2 Nation's fire problem.

3 (6) The research and development performed by
4 the National Institute of Standards and Technology,
5 the United States Fire Administration, other govern-
6 ment agencies, and non-governmental organizations
7 on fire technologies, techniques, and tools advance
8 the capabilities of the Nation's fire service to sup-
9 press and prevent fires.

10 (7) The United States Fire Administration is
11 one of the strongest voices representing the Nation's
12 fire service within the Federal Government, and, as
13 such, it should have a prominent place within the
14 Department of Homeland Security.

15 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR UNITED**
16 **STATES FIRE ADMINISTRATION.**

17 Section 17(g)(1) of the Federal Fire Prevention and
18 Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2216(g)(1)) is amended—

19 (1) in subparagraph (C), by striking the “and”
20 after the semicolon;

21 (2) in subparagraph (D), by striking the period
22 at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

23 (3) by adding after subparagraph (D) the fol-
24 lowing new subparagraphs:

1 “(E) \$70,000,000 for fiscal year 2009, of
2 which \$2,520,000 shall be used to carry out
3 section 8;

4 “(F) \$72,100,000 for fiscal year 2010, of
5 which \$2,595,600 shall be used to carry out
6 section 8;

7 “(G) \$74,263,000 for fiscal year 2011, of
8 which \$2,673,468 shall be used to carry out
9 section 8; and

10 “(H) \$76,490,890 for fiscal year 2012, of
11 which \$2,753,672 shall be used to carry out
12 section 8.”.

13 **SEC. 4. NATIONAL FIRE ACADEMY TRAINING PROGRAM**
14 **MODIFICATIONS AND REPORTS.**

15 (a) AMENDMENTS TO FIRE ACADEMY TRAINING.—
16 Section 7(d)(1) of the Federal Fire Prevention and Con-
17 trol Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2206(d)(1)) is amended—

18 (1) in subparagraph (H), by striking “terrorist-
19 caused national catastrophes” and inserting “ter-
20 rorist-caused and other national catastrophes”;

21 (2) in subparagraph (K), by striking “forest”
22 and inserting “wildland”;

23 (3) in subparagraph (M), by striking “response
24 tactics and” and inserting “response, tactics, and”;

1 (4) by redesignating subparagraphs (I) through
2 (N) as subparagraphs (M) through (R), respectively;
3 and

4 (5) by inserting after subparagraph (H) the fol-
5 lowing new subparagraphs:

6 “(I) response, tactics, and strategies for
7 fighting large-scale fires or multiple fires in a
8 general area that cross jurisdictional bound-
9 aries;

10 “(J) response, tactics, and strategies for
11 fighting fires occurring at the wildland-urban
12 interface;

13 “(K) response, tactics, and strategies for
14 fighting fires involving hazardous materials;

15 “(L) advanced emergency medical services
16 training;”.

17 (b) TRIENNIAL REPORTS.—Section 7 of such Act (15
18 U.S.C. 2206) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
19 lowing new subsection:

20 “(m) TRIENNIAL REPORT.—In the first annual re-
21 port filed pursuant to section 16 for which the deadline
22 for filing is after the expiration of the 18-month period
23 that begins on the date of the enactment of the United
24 States Fire Administration Reauthorization Act of 2007,
25 and in every third annual report thereafter, the Adminis-

1 trator shall include information about changes made to the
 2 National Fire Academy curriculum, including—

3 “(1) the basis for such changes, including a re-
 4 view of the incorporation of lessons learned by emer-
 5 gency response personnel after significant emergency
 6 events and emergency preparedness exercises per-
 7 formed under the National Exercise Program; and

8 “(2) the desired training outcome of all such
 9 changes.”.

10 (c) AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATOR TO ENTER
 11 INTO CONTRACTS TO PROVIDE ON-SITE TRAINING
 12 THROUGH CERTAIN ACCREDITED ORGANIZATIONS.—Sec-
 13 tion 7(f) of such Act (15 U.S.C. 2206) is amended to read
 14 as follows:

15 “(f) ASSISTANCE.—

16 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator is au-
 17 thorized to provide assistance to State and local fire
 18 service training programs through grants, contracts,
 19 or otherwise.

20 “(2) AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO CON-
 21 TRACTS TO PROVIDE ON-SITE TRAINING THROUGH
 22 CERTAIN ACCREDITED ORGANIZATIONS.—

23 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator is
 24 authorized to enter into a contract with a na-
 25 tionally recognized organization that has estab-

1 lished on-site training programs that comply
2 with national consensus standards for fire serv-
3 ice personnel to facilitate the delivery of the
4 education and training programs outlined in
5 subsection (d)(1) directly to fire service per-
6 sonnel.

7 “(B) RESTRICTIONS.—The Administrator
8 shall not enter into a contract with such organi-
9 zation unless such organization—

10 “(i) operates a fire service training
11 program accredited by a nationally recog-
12 nized accreditation organization experi-
13 enced with accrediting such training; and

14 “(ii) at the time the Administrator en-
15 ters into the contract, provides training
16 under such a program to a Federal agency
17 under a cooperative agreement with such
18 agency.

19 “(3) RESTRICTION ON USE OF FUNDS.—The
20 amounts expended by the Administrator to carry out
21 this subsection in any fiscal year shall not exceed 4
22 per centum of the amount authorized to be appro-
23 priated in such fiscal year pursuant to section 17 of
24 this Act.”.

1 **SEC. 5. NATIONAL FIRE INCIDENT REPORTING SYSTEM UP-**
 2 **GRADES.**

3 (a) INCIDENT REPORTING SYSTEM DATABASE.—Sec-
 4 tion 9 of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of
 5 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2208) is amended by adding at the end
 6 the following new subsection:

7 “(d) NATIONAL FIRE INCIDENT REPORTING SYSTEM
 8 UPDATE.—Of the amounts made available pursuant to
 9 subparagraphs (E), (F), and (G) of section 17(g)(1), the
 10 Administrator shall use no more than an aggregate
 11 amount of \$5,000,000 during the 3-year period consisting
 12 of fiscal years 2009, 2010, and 2011 to carry out activities
 13 necessary to update the National Fire Incident Reporting
 14 system to an Internet-based, real-time incident reporting
 15 database, including capital investment, contractor engage-
 16 ment, and user education.”.

17 (b) TECHNICAL CORRECTION.—Section 9(b)(2) of
 18 such Act (15 U.S.C. 2208(b)(2)) is amended by striking
 19 “assist State,” and inserting “assist Federal, State,”.

20 **SEC. 6. FIRE TECHNOLOGY ASSISTANCE AND RESEARCH**
 21 **DISSEMINATION.**

22 (a) ASSISTANCE TO FIRE SERVICES FOR FIRE PRE-
 23 VENTION AND CONTROL IN WILDLAND-URBAN INTER-
 24 FACE.—Section 8(d) of the Federal Fire Prevention and
 25 Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2207(d)) is amended—

1 (1) by striking “**RURAL ASSISTANCE**” in the
2 heading and inserting “**RURAL AND WILDLAND-**
3 **URBAN INTERFACE ASSISTANCE**”;

4 (2) by striking “The Administrator” and insert-
5 ing “(1) The Administrator”; and

6 (3) by adding at the end the following new
7 paragraph:

8 “(2) The Administrator is authorized to assist the
9 Nation’s fire services, directly or through contracts,
10 grants, or other forms of assistance, to sponsor and en-
11 courage research into approaches, techniques, systems,
12 and equipment to improve fire prevention and control in
13 the wildland-urban interface.”.

14 (b) TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH DISSEMINATION.—Sec-
15 tion 8 of such Act (15 U.S.C. 2207) is amended by adding
16 at the end the following new subsection:

17 “(h) RESEARCH DISSEMINATION.—Beginning 1 year
18 after the date of the enactment of the United States Fire
19 Administration Reauthorization Act of 2007, the Adminis-
20 trator, in collaboration with the relevant departments and
21 agencies of the Federal Government, shall make available
22 to the public information about all ongoing and planned
23 fire-related research funded by the Administration during
24 fiscal year 2007 and each fiscal year thereafter, as well

1 as the results generated from such research, through a
2 regularly updated Internet-based database.”.

3 **SEC. 7. ENCOURAGING ADOPTION OF STANDARDS FOR**
4 **FIREFIGHTER HEALTH AND SAFETY.**

5 The Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974
6 (15 U.S.C. 2201 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end
7 the following new section:

8 **“SEC. 37. ENCOURAGING ADOPTION OF STANDARDS FOR**
9 **FIREFIGHTER HEALTH AND SAFETY.**

10 “The Administrator shall promote adoption by fire
11 services of voluntary national consensus standards for fire-
12 fighter health and safety, including such standards for
13 firefighter operations, training, staffing, and fitness, by
14 educating fire services about such standards, encouraging
15 the adoption at all levels of government of such standards,
16 and making recommendations on other ways in which the
17 Federal government can promote the adoption of such
18 standards by fire services.”.

19 **SEC. 8. COORDINATION REGARDING FIRE SERVICE-BASED**
20 **EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES.**

21 Section 21(e) of the Federal Fire Prevention and
22 Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2218(e)) is amended to
23 read as follows:

24 “(e) COORDINATION.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—To the extent practicable,
2 the Administrator shall utilize existing programs,
3 data, information, and facilities already available in
4 other Federal Government departments and agencies
5 and, where appropriate, existing research organiza-
6 tions, centers, and universities.

7 “(2) COORDINATION OF FIRE PREVENTION AND
8 CONTROL PROGRAMS.—The Administrator shall pro-
9 vide liaison at an appropriate organizational level to
10 assure coordination of the Administrator’s activities
11 with State and local government agencies, depart-
12 ments, bureaus, or offices concerned with any matter
13 related to programs of fire prevention and control
14 with private and other Federal organizations and of-
15 fices so concerned.

16 “(3) COORDINATION OF FIRE SERVICE-BASED
17 EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PROGRAMS.—The
18 Administrator shall provide liaison at an appropriate
19 organizational level to assure coordination of the Ad-
20 ministrator’s activities with State and local govern-
21 ment agencies, departments, bureaus, or offices con-
22 cerned with programs related to emergency medical
23 services provided by fire service-based systems with
24 private and other Federal organizations and offices
25 so concerned.”.

1 **SEC. 9. DEFINITIONS.**

2 Section 4 of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control
3 Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2203) is amended—

4 (1) in paragraph (3), by striking “Administra-
5 tion” and inserting “Administration, who is the As-
6 sistant Administrator of the Federal Emergency
7 Management Agency”;

8 (2) in paragraph (7), by striking the “and”
9 after the semicolon;

10 (3) in paragraph (8), by striking the period at
11 the end and inserting “; and”;

12 (4) by redesignating paragraphs (6), (7), and
13 (8) as paragraphs (7), (8), and (9), respectively;

14 (5) by inserting after paragraph (5) the fol-
15 lowing new paragraph:

16 “(6) ‘hazardous materials’ has the meaning
17 given such term in section 5102(2) of title 49,
18 United States Code;”; and

19 (6) by adding at the end the following new
20 paragraph:

21 “(10) ‘wildland-urban interface’ has the mean-
22 ing given such term in section 101(16) of the
23 Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C.
24 6511(16)).”.

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